

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) A process for preparing isocyanates comprising the steps of providing a phosgene having a content of bromine or iodine or a mixture thereof in molecular or bound form of less than 50 ppm and reacting an amine or a mixture of two or more amines with said phosgene, thereby forming the isocyanates.

2. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the phosgene contains less than 25 ppm of bromine or iodine or mixtures thereof in molecular or bound form.

3. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in a solvent.

4. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the amine used is an amine of the diphenylmethanediamine series or a mixture thereof.

5. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.

6. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.

Claims 7-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the reaction is carried out in a solvent.

11. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the amine used is an amine of the diphenylmethanediamine series or a mixture thereof.

12. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the amine used is an amine of the diphenylmethanediamine series or a mixture thereof.

13. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.

14. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.

15. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.

16. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.

17. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric or atmospheric pressure.

18. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.

19. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.

Claims 20-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein isophorone diamine is reacted with said phosgene to form isophorone diisocyanate.

26. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein 1,6-hexamethylenediamine is reacted with said phosgene to form hexamethylene-1,6-diisocyanate.